

which had long relied on other jurisdictions for this important undertaking. Township supervisors decided that the company would rely solely on fundraising and other sources of income rather than on taxpayer dollars, a decision which still stands to this day.

Today, Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company has over 70 members, including more than 40 volunteers who actively respond to calls. The additional members are responsible for important functions including fundraising, accounting, and other day to day business operations. Since its founding, the company has been active in updating their equipment and training procedures to ensure they are leaders in fire protection. The members of this company continue to risk their own lives to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Northmoreland Township.

Mr. Speaker, since 1981 members of the Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company have proudly protected their community from fire and other disasters. Therefore, I commend all those personnel who have faithfully served at this fire house and congratulate them on the dedication of their newest building addition and acquisition of a new ladder truck.

REMEMBERING MR. MAURICE LYONS

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Maurice Lyons, who passed away October 16, 2013. Mr. Lyons has left those living in the Morongo Basin with a legacy of public service and dedication to community.

Mr. Lyons became well known throughout the Morongo Basin during his 15 years of leadership as chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Raised on the Morongo Reservation as one of nine children, Lyons entered public service in 1994 as a tribal housing commissioner and chairman of the Morongo Head Start parents committee. Soon after he was elected to the Morongo Tribal Council and was elected Tribal Chairman in 2001, serving a total of three terms.

In addition to his leadership on the Tribal Council, Mr. Lyons established himself as a community leader through his role in developing the Morongo School, a college preparatory academy that opened on the reservation in 2010.

In addition he served as president of the board of directors for National Indian Child Welfare Association and spearheaded a national drive that raised more than \$500,000 toward the cost to build a National American Indian Veterans monument at Riverside National Cemetery.

Today, I join with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and with the entire Morongo Basin in remembering this extraordinary public leader who served as an inspiration to all those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO PARAMESHWARAN "RAVI" RAVISHANKER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Perris, California and greater Riverside County are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Parameswaran "Ravi" Ravishanker is one of these individuals. This year, Mr. Ravishanker will end his tenure as the Deputy General Manager of the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) after over 20 years of service.

Under his guidance as Assistant General Manager and Deputy General Manager, Mr. Ravishanker has helped EMWD become an industry leader in water and wastewater management. He is responsible for having helped EMWD reach a historic water rights settlement with the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, which was signed into law by the President of the United States on July 31, 2008. This settlement has resulted in the recharging of an overdrawn groundwater basin, helping to secure water reliability in the region for future generations.

Mr. Ravishanker has been instrumental in the surface and groundwater basin plans for the Santa Ana Watershed and San Jacinto Watershed, which have a combined population of just fewer than five million people. He helped initiate the implementation of three groundwater desalination facilities, a multipurpose wetlands facility and five wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, Mr. Ravishanker helped develop a water resources management plan that helped maximize state and federal funding opportunities, resulting in a more sustainable water supply portfolio for the District.

Mr. Ravishanker previously served as a United Nations Consultant and the Deputy General Manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. He has dedicated his career to the water industry and has always worked with a commitment to resource and environmental sustainability.

In light of all Mr. Ravishanker has done for the city of Perris and the greater community, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Mr. Ravishanker's tireless passion for the industry in which he serves has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside County and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I commend Mr. Ravishanker for his tireless work with the Eastern Municipal Water District. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him as he prepares to end his tenure later this year.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLACK HAWK DOWN"

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the veterans of the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 3rd, 1993—commonly referred to now as "Black Hawk Down"—gathered at two different events in Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in Texas at the ranch of Ross Perot, Jr., to observe the 20th anniversary of these events and remember the 18 servicemen who were killed in action.

I submit for the RECORD a statement I received from Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin who was the commander of Delta Force during this battle, which took the lives of 18 men and wounded 73 others.

As Lt. Gen. Boykin notes in the statement, "What came next was hours of fighting between ninety-nine Americans and tens of thousands of the Somali militia, all armed with rifles, grenades, and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and determined to kill as many Americans as possible. The battle was now a matter of principle. No American would be left behind. It made no difference that the two pilots were already dead, their bodies would be brought out and returned home with dignity. No man was willing to leave his comrade's body because each man lived by an ethos known as the 'Ranger Creed', which says in the fifth stanza 'I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy . . .'"

BLACK HAWK DOWN TWENTY YEARS LATER

(By Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin)

October 3rd, 1993 was a day when "Uncommon valor was a common virtue," according to John O. Marsh, Jr., the former Secretary of the United States Army. Known to his friends as Jack, Marsh was speaking at a memorial service at the Delta Force facilities at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in November, 1993, just days after the unit had returned from Mogadishu, Somalia, where sixteen of their comrades had died and another 72 had suffered wounds. The battle that Marsh was referring to was later chronicled in the Ridley Scott and Jerry Bruckheimer movie "Black Hawk Down." Last week two key commemoratives occurred in different places which drew the participants of that battle together to honor their fallen comrades. The first was at Ft Bragg, NC on October 3rd where Rangers, Delta Force personnel, aviators from the 1/60th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and a small number of US Navy and US Air Force warriors gathered on the twentieth anniversary. On the 5th of October, many of the same group, along with family members, attended an event sponsored by Ross Perot Jr at his ranch in Grapevine Texas. Both events were characterized by solemn camaraderie and stories of old team mates who never made it home from that battle. Jack Marsh was right about the valor shown that day in the most intense firefight that US troops had been in since the Viet Nam conflict.

One of the somewhat obscure facts about the "Blackhawk Down" battle is what those men were fighting for. The mission that day was to capture three Somali militiamen who were part of the network of a brutal tribal leader named Mohammad Aidede. That mission was accomplished fairly quickly and the task force was preparing to return to their base when a Blackhawk helicopter, call sign